

ABSTRACT

WA-VI-025

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 124(128)

1767 (reset 1902)

Hancock, Maryland vicinity

Public/private

Milestone No. 124(128) marks Mason and Dixon's 124th horizontal mile west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line, famous for its historical and geographical impact and innovative survey methods. It is an original milestone of 1767, quarried and carved in England, ofoolitic limestone; is in fair condition, unaltered; and stands about 10 inches above ground at its original site, preliminarily surveyed in 1766, monumented the following year, and reset more securely in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. It is significant on the national and state levels primarily as one of 135 original monuments in the thematic group series of some 248 markers still defining the West Line. Locally, as one of 48 original monuments marking the present Washington/Franklin-Fulton county boundary, it is also significant as one of a diminishing number of objects and structures with a visually identifiable relationship to the colonial and Civil War heritage of these counties.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST Magi No.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME BOUNDARY MARKERS ALONG THE MASON-DIXON LINE (THEMATIC GROUP)
 HISTORIC (Mason and Dixon's) WEST LINE, 124th Mile Stone

AND/OR COMMON

MASON-DIXON LINE: MILESTONE NO. 124 (1900-03 Resurvey Monument No. 128)

2 LOCATION (not for publication)
 STREET & NUMBER off the south side of T-305

CITY, TOWN

Hancock

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

MD: 6 / PA: 9

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

MD: Washington/PA: Fulton

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS N/A	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: state boundary marker

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY (monument only; see Thematic Group NR nomination form)
 NAME State of Maryland/Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION (see Thematic Group NR nomination form and surrounding property ownership list)
 COURTHOUSE, Registry of Deeds, ETC.
 Liber #: Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (also see Thematic Group NR nomination form)
 TITLE Washington County Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

WA-VI-025 entered 2/24/81

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE
Maryland 21401

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Milestone No. 124(128) marks Mason and Dixon's 124th horizontal mile west of the northeast corner of Maryland, the beginning of their 230.228-mile West Line. It is an original milestone of 1767, in fair condition, unaltered, and stands about 10 inches above ground at its original site, preliminarily surveyed in 1766, monumented the following year, and reset more securely in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary.

The area here is hilly, almost entirely in fruit orchards, with very few houses. The site is within Election District 5 of Washington County, MD, and Thompson Township of Fulton County, PA; about 3½ miles northeast of the town of Hancock, MD; on the east slope of Timber Ridge, about 600 feet west of Ditch Run; at a point about 1650 feet south of T-305 and about 3000 feet west of Timber Ridge Road No. 2; in a scraggly east-west hedgerow, about 1 foot south of an east-west barbed wire fence separating the old Columbia Gas pipeline and Hepburn orchard on the north side from an open weedy field on the south side. It cannot be seen from the road or orchard service lanes, any season; but is fairly easily seen from closeby if on the south side of the fence near an unlocked gate.

The milestone, as with all original Mason and Dixon West Line monuments, is an embellished oolitic limestone post with a low pyramidal top, quarried and carved in England, and said to have originally measured about 12 inches square by about 4 feet or more in length, cut to stand about 3 feet high with the base left rough-cut for setting into the ground. The distinguishing decorative features are the vertical fluting with horizontally-fluted margins on all four sides, and the Roman capital letters P on the north side facing Pennsylvania and M on the south side facing Maryland, each V-sunk in the center of a plain shallow circle panel near the top. The milestone now measures close to 12 inches square and stands about 10 inches above the concrete foundation as reset in 1902. Its condition in 1902 was described by the Resurvey (MGS, Vol. 7, 1908, p. 92) as "rather badly mutilated, the letter M being partly broken away." and in the 1950 field inspection notes (Bayliff, 1959, p. 107) as also "badly damaged on the southwest and northwest corner." Comparatively, this stone remains in fair condition; the letters and circle panels are clear, though the M is broken into; the basic shape of the stone is recognizable; some fluting but no margins remain; no planes or fluting of the top are distinguishable and the apex is now a pit. The old huge chips out of the northwest and southwest edges are there, as are small chips along all edges and the other two top corners.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY (see Thematic Group NR nomination form for full descriptions of the original Mason and Dixon monuments and the 1900-03 Resurvey method of resetting them)

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		boundary surveying

SPECIFIC DATES 1767 (reset 1902) ~~BUILDER/ARCHITECT~~ Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon
SURVEYORS

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Milestone No. 124(128) is significant on the national and state levels primarily as one of 135 original Mason and Dixon monuments in the thematic group series of some 248 markers defining their 230.228-mile West Line, the boundary later known as the Mason-Dixon Line, famous for its historical and geographical impact and innovative survey methods. The site was preliminarily surveyed in 1766, monumented the following year and reset more securely in 1902 during the 1900-03 Resurvey of the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary. Locally, as one of 48 original monuments marking the present Washington/Franklin-Fulton county boundary (10 crownstones; 38 milestones), No. 124(128) is also significant as one of a diminishing number of objects and structures with a visually identifiable relationship to the colonial and Civil War heritage of these counties.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (see Thematic Group National Register nomination form)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(see Thematic Group National Register nomination form)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acreQuadrangle name: Cherry Run (Maryland-West Virginia-Pennsylvania), USGS 7.5
minute series (topographic), 1951 photorev. 1971, scale 1:24000

UTM reference: zone 17, easting 74650, northing 440068

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION N/A

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE Maryland COUNTY Washington

STATE Pennsylvania COUNTY Fulton

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Alice Martin (volunteer, Mason and Dixon's West Line boundary marker surveyor)

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust and Maryland Geological Survey

DATE

3/29/81 (site surveyed)

STREET & NUMBER

14308 Mount Avenue

TELEPHONE

(301) 472-2128

CITY OR TOWN

Phoenix

STATE

Maryland 21131

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

5363 1 SW
(NEEDMORE)



WA-VI-025
HASON EDIXON WEST LINE: MILESTONE NO. 124 (128)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

CHERRY RUN QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND-WEST VIRGINIA-PENNSYLVANIA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
1951 PHOTO REV. 1971 SCALE: 1"=2000'





11/17

WA VI-025

MASON & DIXON'S WEST LINE PALESTINE 124 (138)

OLD ORIENT (D1-), ORIGINAL (1767)

PHOTO: ALICE MASON 3/29/81 (1981.14.4)



1147

2A-VI-125

MASON 2 DIXON¹ WEST LINE: MILESTONE 124 (128)
SE CORNER (M-), ORIGINAL (1767)

PHOTO: ALICE MARTIN 3/27/81 (1981.14 2)